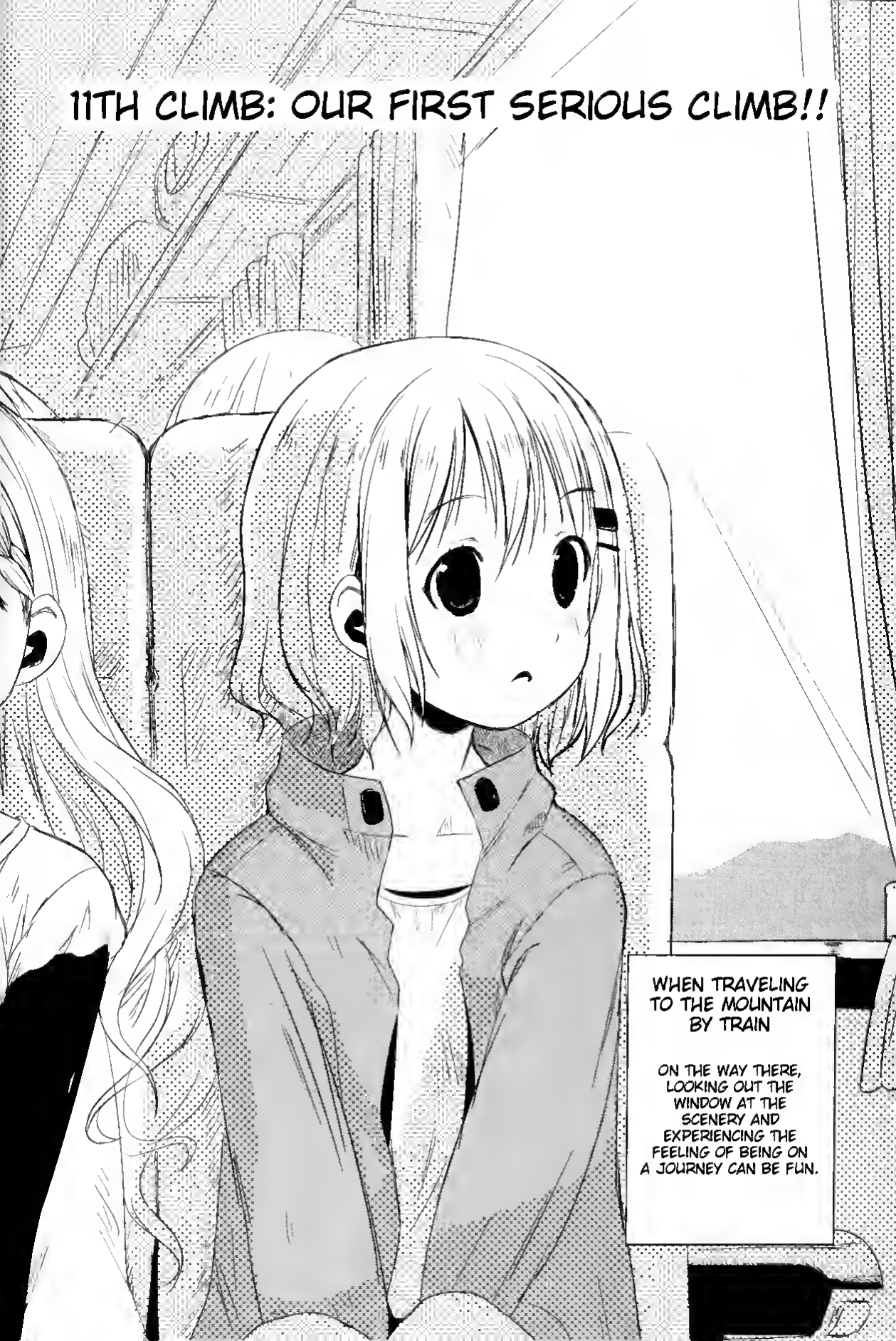
TODAY I'M GOING HIKING WITH EVERYONE.
WOW!
I HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD WHERE WE'RE GOING YET,
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THEY THOUGHT OF A GOOD PLACE.
ひそひそ
WHEREVER WE'RE GOING,
IT'LL BE FUN!

11TH CLIMB: OUR FIRST SERIOUS CLIMB!!


WHEN TRAVELING TO THE MOUNTAIN BY TRAIN
ON THE WAY THERE, LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AT THE SCENERY AND EXPERIENCING THE FEELING OF BEING ON A JOURNEY CAN BE FUN.

UENO-HARA
SAGA-MIKO
SO WE SHOULD HAVE A REALLY PRETTY VIEW OF FUJISAN FROM BYOUBUIWA ON THE WAY UP
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR USING THE KAWAGUCHIKO LINE TODAY
THIS TRAIN STOPS AT
SOUNDS GOOD
SO THAT'S WHERE WE'LL SURPRISE AOI!
UNNG...
FUJISAN
MITSU-TOUGE
WILL THIS REALLY WORK...?
SAYING IT
CAN SEE IT
TRAIN NOISES
ガタン
ガタン
ガタン

ONE HOUR LATER
MITSU-TOUGE
MITSU-TOUGE
OK,
LET'S GO!
!!
FUJISAN
HA HA HA
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
N- NOTHING AT ALL!!!
THE TRAIL IS STILL 20 MINUTES FROM HERE
OK!
THAT WAS CLOSE
HMM?

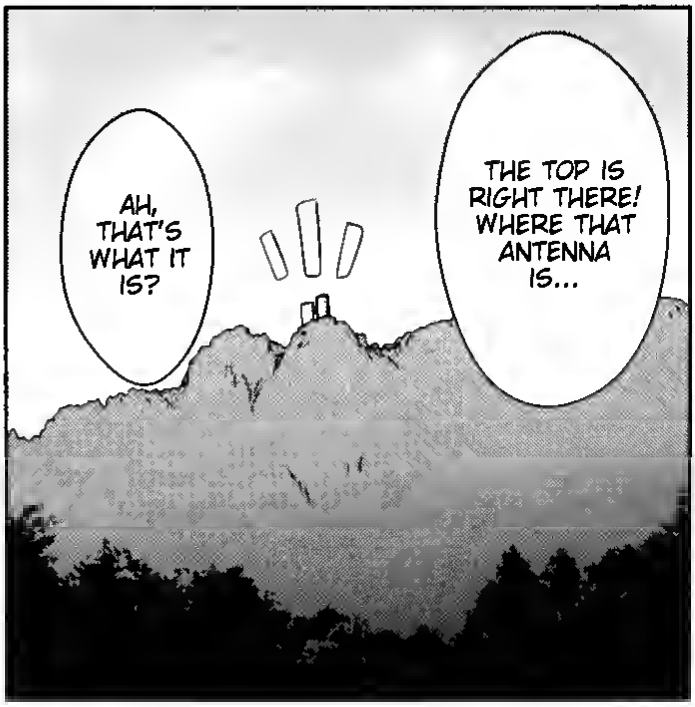
IS THAT
FUJISAN!?
AMAZING! IT'S LIKE IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
!!
HEY!!
HINA-
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE?
DON'T TELL ME
SO THIS
IS ABOUT HINATA WANTING TO SHOW ME THIS VIEW OF FUJISAN...?

I WAS TALKING ABOUT FUJISAN BEFORE...
COME TO THINK OF IT,
BUT, WHY WOULD SHE DO IT LIKE THIS...
FOR HER BEING SO THOUGHTFUL WITH THIS SURPRISE, THOUGH, SHE REALLY DIDN'T CONSIDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN WE GOT HERE...
WELL, HINATA COULD BE UP TO ANYTHING...
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
A GREAT VIEW OF FUJISAN!
AT ANY RATE, I'LL CERTAINLY GET
FOR NOW, I'LL PRETEND I DON'T KNOW...
O-OK
AOI! HURRY UP!

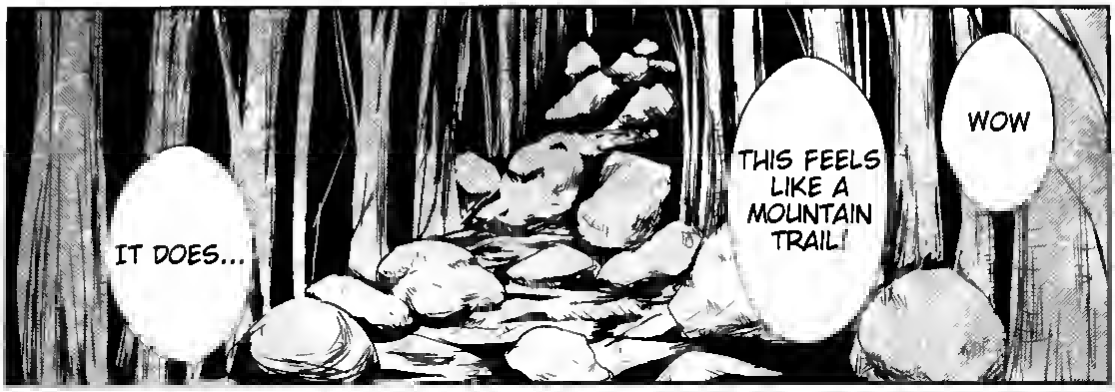
WE'VE BEEN ON THIS PAVED ROAD FOR A WHILE...
FEELS LIKE

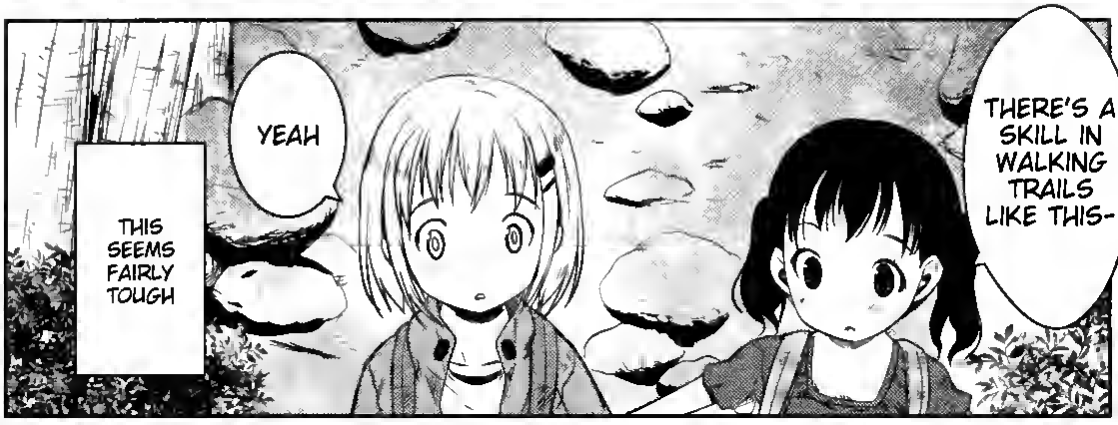
SO AFTER WE GET TO THE TRAIL,
WE'LL GET TO THE TOP RIGHT AWAY!
HUH?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A TRAIL, DOES IT?

OH-


AH, THAT'S WHAT IT IS?
THE TOP IS RIGHT THERE! WHERE THAT ANTENNA IS...

MITSUTOUGE TRAILHEAD
FINALLY, THE START!
YOU DID THAT PRETTY FAST, HUH?
DID I?
I WONDER HOW IT'LL BE FROM HERE ON THOUGH...
IT WILL PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT-
OHH...
BUT-
THE PATH HERE GOT ME A LITTLE EXCITED!
...

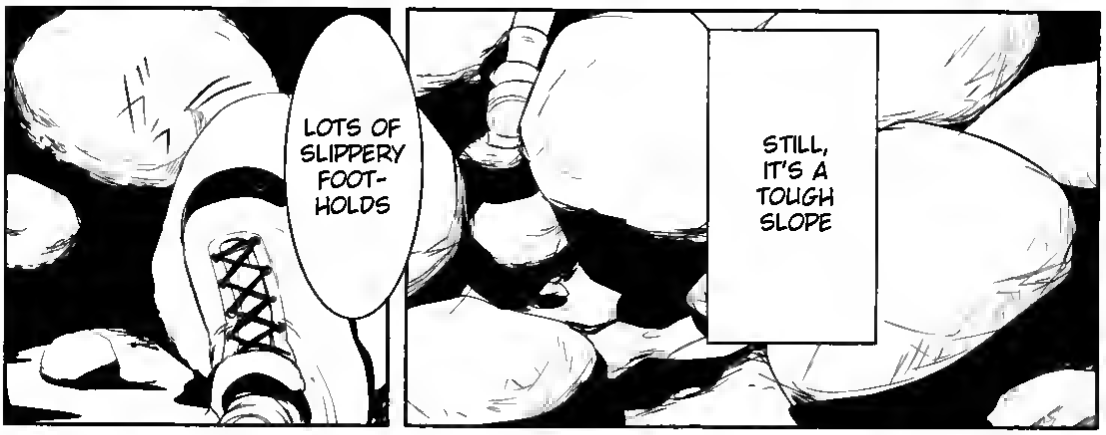

WOW
THIS FEELS LIKE A MOUNTAIN TRAIL!
IT DOES...


THERE'S A SKILL IN WALKING TRAILS LIKE THIS-
YEAH
THIS SEEMS FAIRLY TOUGH

ISN'T THIS A LOT OF FUN?
SO FAST!
!!!
AMAZING,
ISN'T SHE?
I'M NOT RUSHING, BUT I WANT TO SEE IT...

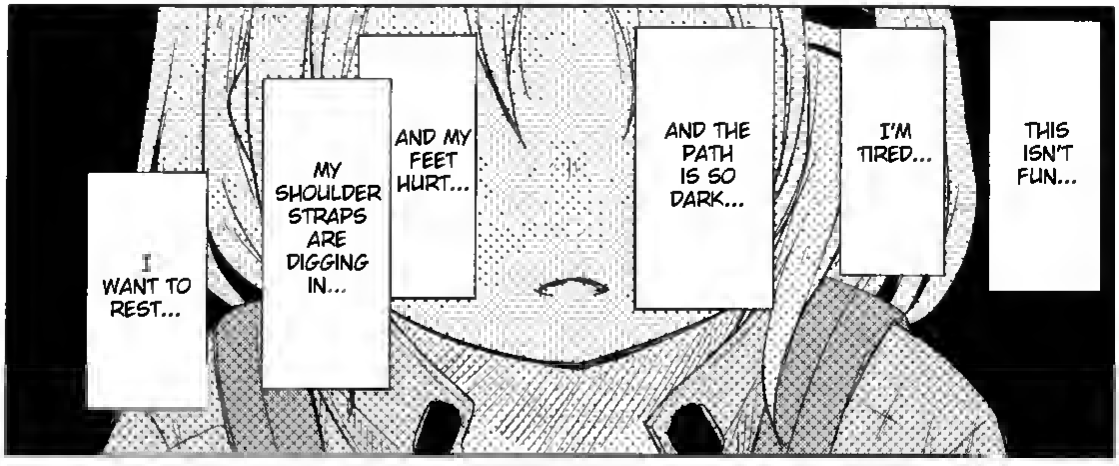
HUH?
THE...
TRAIL SUDDENLY BECAME A LOT STEEPER...

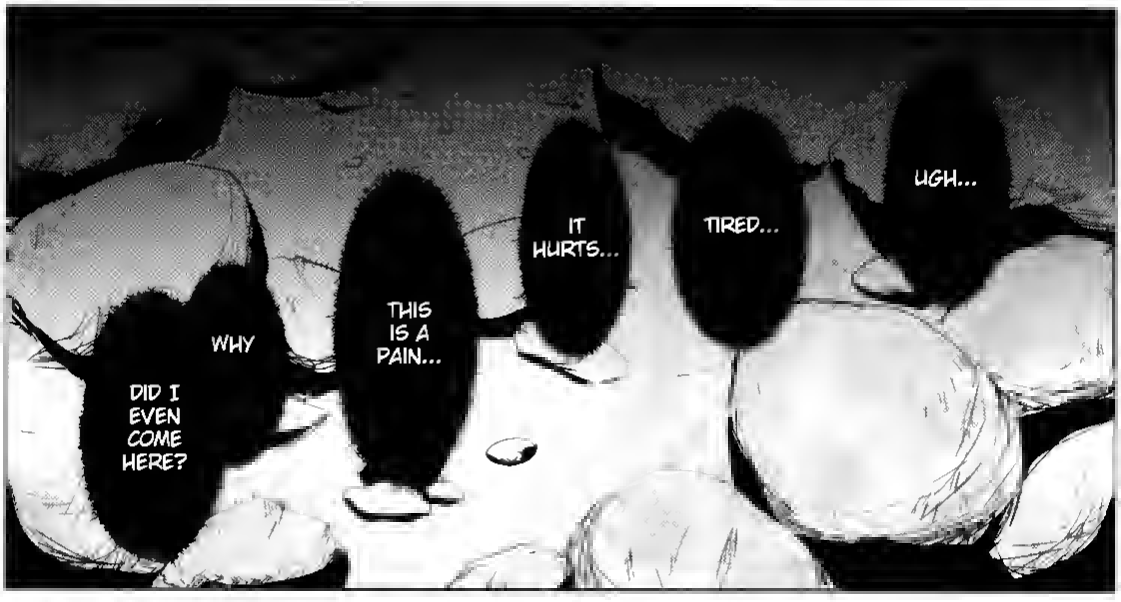
BUT... IF I DON'T KEEP GOING
I'LL BE LEFT BEHIND


STILL, IT'S A TOUGH SLOPE
LOTS OF SLIPPERY FOOT-HOLDS

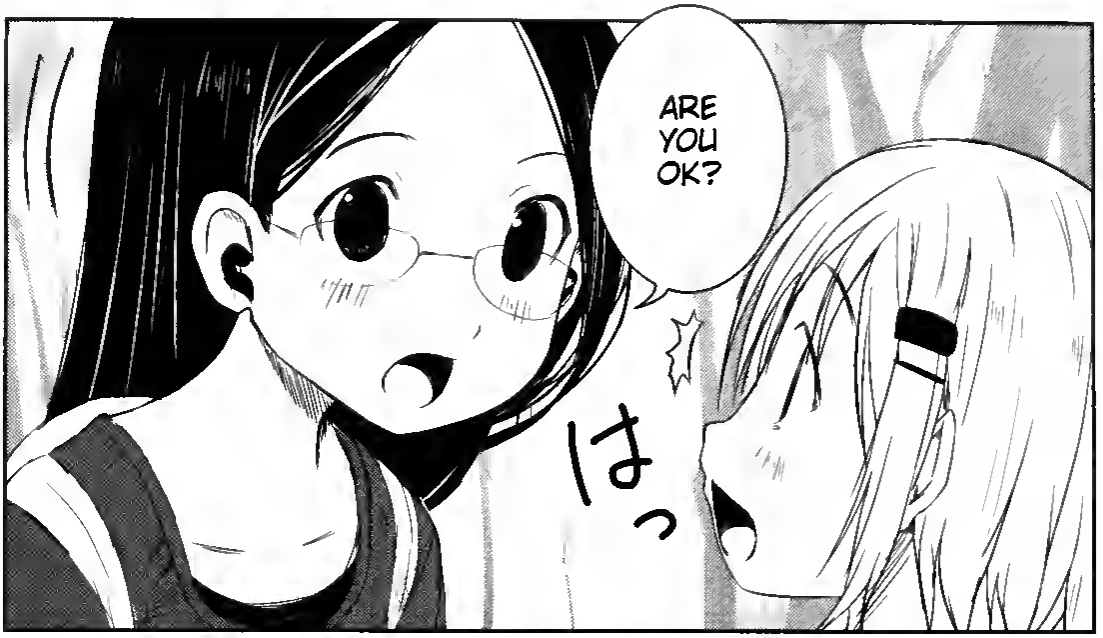
WOAH!

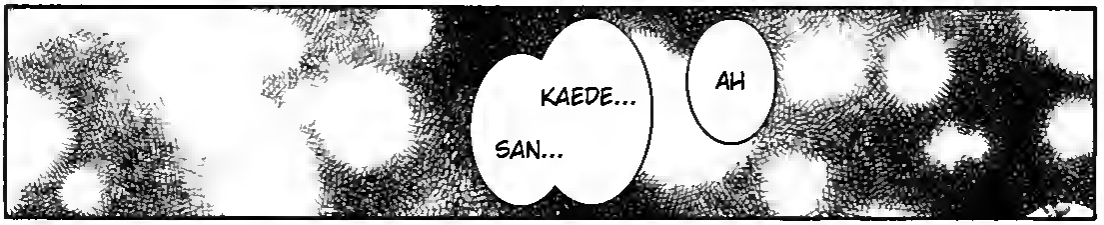
HUH?


I WANT TO REST...
MY SHOULDER STRAPS ARE DIGGING IN...
AND MY FEET HURT...
AND THE PATH IS SO DARK...
I'M TIRED...
THIS ISN'T FUN...


WHY DID I EVEN COME HERE?
THIS IS A PAIN...
IT HURTS...
TIRED...
UGH...

I WANT TO GO HOME...
HEY-
HEY


ARE YOU OK?
はっ

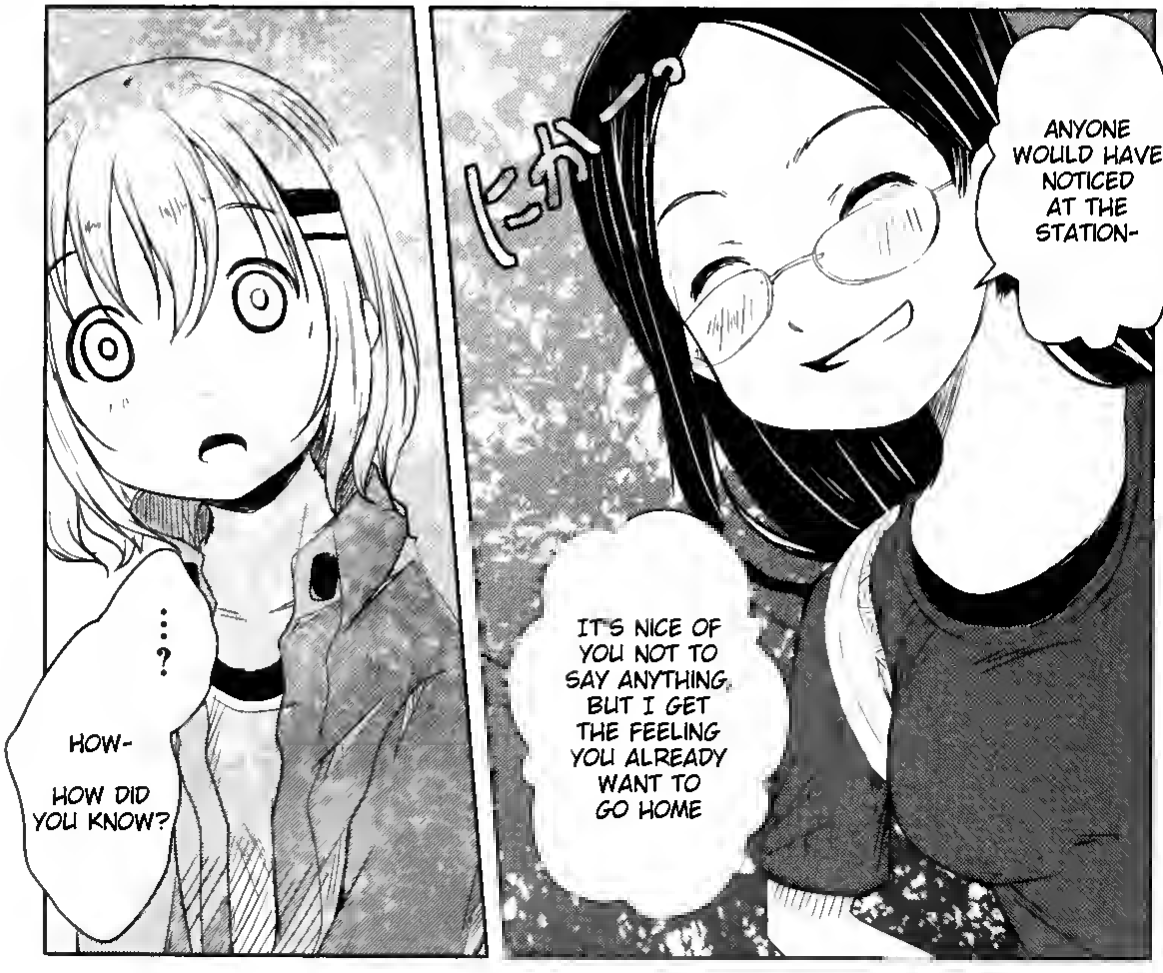

KAEDE... SAN...
AH

ぼーーー
AH-
I'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND...

I SENT THE OTHERS AHEAD
LET'S REST A BIT
O... OK...

AOI-CHAN
HAVE YOU REACHED YOUR LIMIT?
NOT YET...
WELL, FUJISAN IS WAITING FOR YOU, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH...

HUH?
YOU KNEW...?

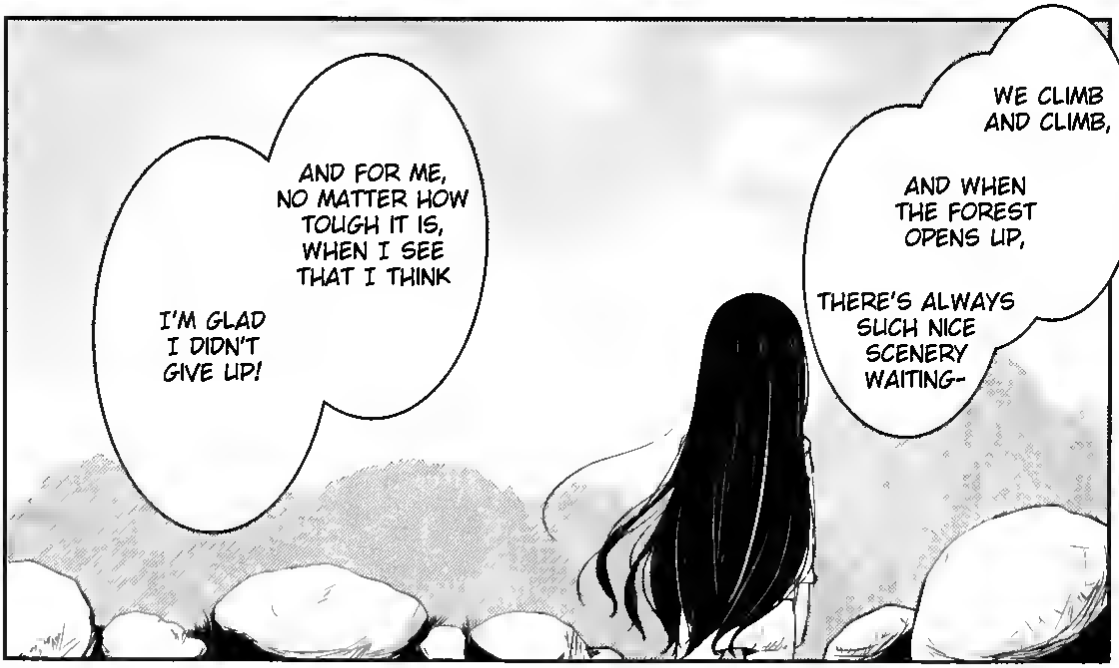

ANYONE WOULD HAVE NOTICED AT THE STATION-
IT'S NICE OF YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING, BUT I GET THE FEELING YOU ALREADY WANT TO GO HOME
HOW- HOW DID YOU KNOW?
.....?

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
IS THE SAME AS A MARATHON
IF YOU TRY TO KEEP A FAST PACE,
YOU'LL WEAR YOURSELF OUT RIGHT AWAY
WHEN YOU GET TO YOUR LIMITS, EVERYTHING BECOMES REALLY TIRING
EVEN NOW I STILL GET THAT WAY SOMETIMES-
THEREFORE,
MAINTAIN A GOOD PACE AND REST WHEN YOU'RE TIRED!
SO FOR NOW, LET'S TAKE IT SLOW!
TAKING SHORT STEPS IS FINE TOO!
...
SORRY
FOR BEING SUCH A BOTHER
しゅん
HMM?

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN "SORRY"
IT'S BETTER TO SAY "THANK YOU" RIGHT?
AH
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
ぽかーん...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A BOTHER... TO YOU...
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY KAEDE-SAN IS ALWAYS SMILING
けら
けら
HAHA
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE SO GLOOMY, WON'T IT MAKE ME DEPRESSED TOO?
けら
OH YEAH, I'LL LET YOU BORROW THESE!
WHAT ARE THEY?

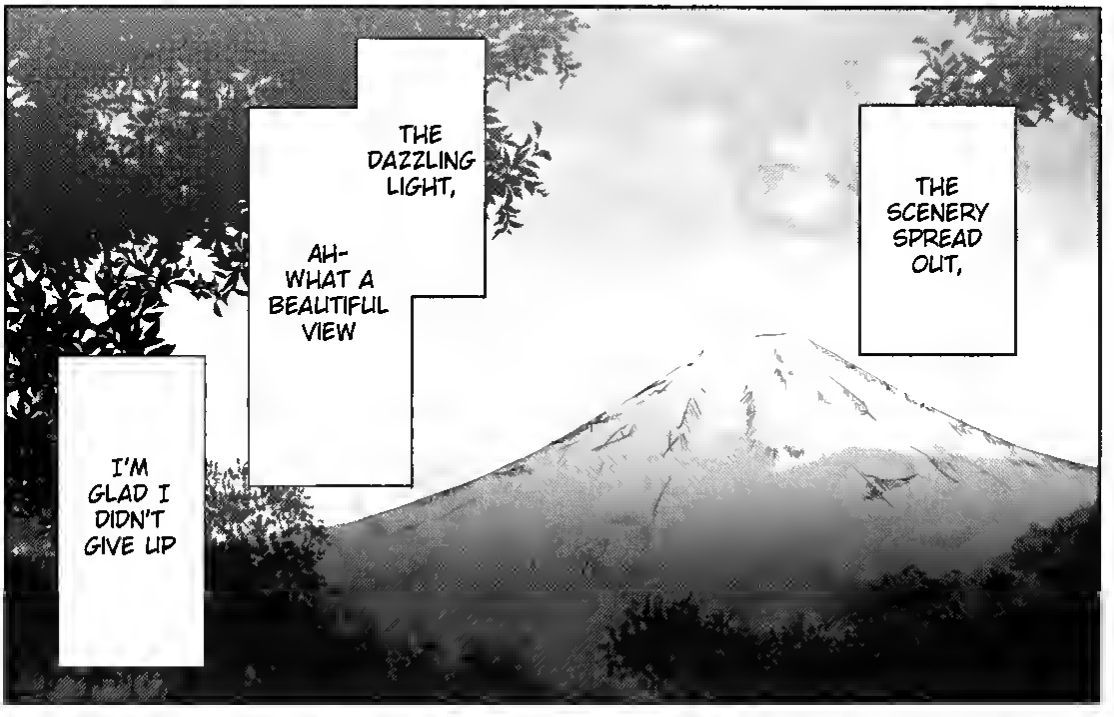
HEHE
THESE...
ARE COLLAPSIBLE TREKKING POLES!
ON UNEVEN TERRAIN,
THEY HELP YOU BALANCE!
THEY MAKE IT EASY!
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE FARTHER, SO LET'S DO OUR BEST!
I'LL TAKE YOUR PACK FOR YOU
O-OK

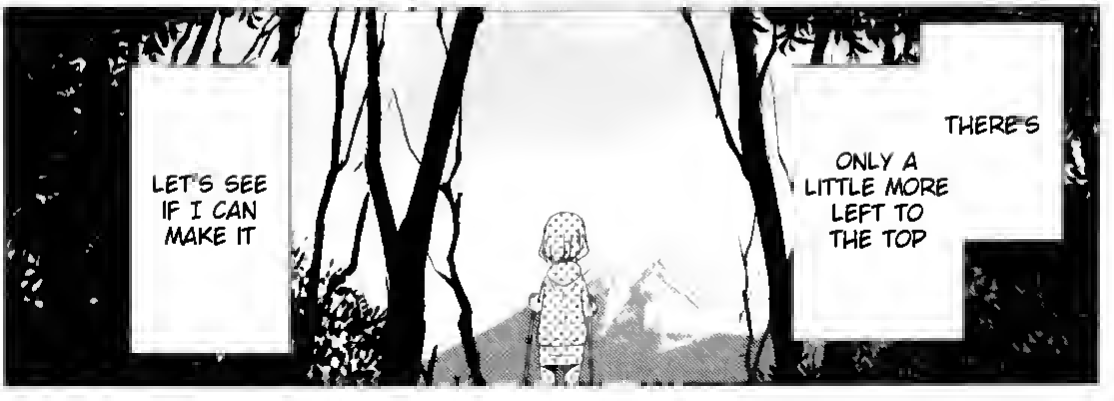
THIS MOUNTAIN
IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN A FOREST BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
SLOWLY... CONSCIOUSLY...
ONE STEP...
AT A TIME...
SHORT
STEPS...


AND FOR ME, NO MATTER HOW TOUGH IT IS, WHEN I SEE THAT I THINK
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GIVE UP!
WE CLIMB AND CLIMB,
AND WHEN THE FOREST OPENS UP,
THERE'S ALWAYS SUCH NICE SCENERY WAITING-

I WON'T EITHER!
THEN,

ハァ
アアア


THE DAZZLING LIGHT,
AH- WHAT A BEAUTIFUL VIEW
THE SCENERY SPREAD OUT,
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GIVE UP


LET'S SEE IF I CAN MAKE IT
THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE MORE LEFT TO THE TOP

MITSUTOUGEYAMA (ELEV. 1,785M)

(JAPAN'S TOP 200 FAMOUS MOUNTAINS, JAPAN'S TOP 300 FAMOUS MOUNTAINS)

THIS MOUNTAIN IS FAMOUS AS A CLIMBING MECCA (FOR BYOUBUIWA), AS WELL AS FOR ITS GREAT VIEWS OF FUJISAN. IT IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLOSE TO FUJISAN ITSELF, AND IS ACCESSIBLE BY THE FUJI EXPRESS LINE, THE TRAIN LINE FOLLOWING THE CLIMBING ROUTE UP.

WHEN HIKING FROM MITSUTOUGE STATION, THE ELEVATION GAIN TO THE TOP IS ABOUT 1200 METERS, BUT WHEN COMING FROM THE KAWAGUCHIKO SIDE THE ELEVATION GAIN IS ABOUT HALF THAT, SO CLIMBERS GENERALLY PASS BY MITSUTOUGE STATION.

THE START OF THE ROUTE FROM MITSUTOUGE STATION IS FAIRLY PLAIN, FOLLOWING A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ROAD. THE SECOND PART IS A HIKING TRAIL, AND SHORTLY AFTER THE FOREST OPENS UP THERE ARE VARIOUS SPOTS WHERE YOU CAN SEE LARGE PANORAMIC VIEWS OF FUJISAN. THERE ARE BENCHES AT SOME OF THE FUJISAN VIEWING SPOTS, AND WHILE YOU REST YOU CAN ADMIRE THE SUPERB VIEWS.

ALTHOUGH YOU AREN'T FAR INTO THE MOUNTAINS, THERE ARE STILL A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF MOUNTAINEERS RATHER THAN TOURISTS, AS THIS IS SAID TO BE A SERIOUS CLIMB. THAT SAID, YOU NEED STAMINA FOR THE CLIMB, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY DANGEROUS POINTS WHERE YOU COULD BE INJURED (IN CH. 12, ONE SCARY PART WILL BE SHOWN), AND IT CAN BE SAID THAT THIS IS A COMPARATIVELY SAFE CLIMB. PAST THE HALFWAY POINT IS WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF FUJISAN, BUT BE SURE TO CHOOSE A CLEAR, SUNNY DAY IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE SCENERY.

WHEN YOU GET TIRED, YOU SHOULD REST UNTIL YOU'VE RECOVERED, OR YOU'LL JUST QUICKLY BECOME EXHAUSTED AGAIN